



Te Kawa Mataaho
Public Service Commission

13 October 2025

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education
Email: E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz

Dear Minister,

Update on the Investigation into the allegations received regarding the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

On 22 August 2025, following advice from the Public Service Commission (the Commission), you:

- Requested we commence an investigation into one of the allegations you had received about the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand (the Teaching Council),
- Agreed that the remaining allegations be referred to the Teaching Council Governing Chair (the Chair) to enable a response from the individuals concerned, and
- Agreed that the Commission could incorporate some or all of the remaining allegations into the investigation, should any questions arise from the individual responses.

The terms of reference for the investigation (ToR) were finalised on 9 September 2025. The Teaching Council engaged a barrister to provide a report on the remaining allegations. On 3 October 2025 we received the report from the Chair. After considering the report, and meeting with the barrister, we consider that questions remain regarding two specific matters:

- Procurement and conflict of interest management concerning the appointment of two former Education New Zealand staff members as contractors, and
- Contracting for Te Reo lessons, translation services and cultural services outside of standard procurement processes.

The ToR were revised on 10 October to reflect their inclusion. However, the scope of the investigation remains the same – procurement practices and conflict of interest management by the Teaching Council.

The Commission issued a media statement about its investigation on 24 September 2025. This was in response to a media request. The statement confirmed that the Commission is investigating the Teaching Council in relation to its procurement practices and management of conflicts of interest. Given the scope of the investigation is unchanged, we propose to continue to use the media statement to respond to future media enquiries.

The time frame for completing the investigation remains unchanged, with a final report expected in early December.

Yours sincerely,



Hugo Vitalis

Tumu Whakarae Tuarua | Deputy Chief Executive
Rautaki, Kaupapahere me te Ngākau Pono | Strategy, Policy, and Integrity